

~~SECRET~~*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, FBIS

DATE: 7 November 1964

FROM : Chief, Saigon Bureau

SUBJECT: Monthly Progress Report - October 1964

## I. GENERAL

Security. The streets of Saigon were quiet during the month as the Vietnamese Government made its fragile transition from military to civilian rule. The midnight to 4 a.m. curfew remained in effect, however, and helicopters kept their vigil over the city throughout the evening hours. In the countryside, Viet Cong attacks, which had been sustained at a new high level following the 13 September abortive coup, dropped off during the last two weeks of the month. This brief respite, however, was broken on the last night of the month with a series of well coordinated attacks, including the assault on the Bien Hoa airbase, clearly audible in the capital.

✓ Communications. October was another poor month for Bureau communications. The RUAB-RUABSG circuit continued to be heavily preempted, with only a slight easing during the final days of the month. A solid outage both ways 21-25 October was the second worst period of outage (exceeded only by six days in September). Although various measures were taken to assure receipt of essential traffic, missing and delayed messages continued to be a problem.

✓ Military Requests. An increased number of requests from MACV for copies of items on an urgent basis were received, emanating mostly from the Chief of Staff's office and J-2. Such requesters normally send a courier to pick up the material. The Bureau was considering, however, various ways to better coordinate service to MACV in regard to these urgent items, including the possibility of filing highly important items to MACV via common user. MACV is thus far cool to the idea, however, probably out of concern for the already over-loaded area communications system.

## II. OPERATIONS

Monitorial. Productive wordage reached a new monthly high of 237,000, generated largely by the Cambodian border crisis and increased processing from the Liberation radio. Weekly voice coverage at the end of the month was 180 hours.

Editorial. To provide greater flexibility in keeping the Bureau operating seven days a week, Thoms and Noland will alternate periodically in handling various editorial desk functions.

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GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification
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Lateral Services. Ad hoc services during the month included: copies of program summaries of Liberation radio broadcasts in Mandarin, for Embassy; information on Khmer Serei broadcasts, for Embassy (similar to FYI's filed [redacted]); copies of summaries of certain Hanoi casts, for MACV-SOG; filing of excerpts from Sihanouk speech to the American Embassy Cairo, at the request of the U.S. Embassy Phnom Penh; urgent processing of Sihanouk's 28 October speech, at request of the State Department through the U.S. Embassy Saigon; provided information to the U.S. 2d Air Division on radio reports concerning U.S. airmen killed or captured. An unusually high number of State Department cables to and from Southeast Asia either referred to or were based on FBIS materials.

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## III. Administration

Personnel. Headquarters approval was granted for the advance return of the dependents of Malayan Monitor [redacted] to Kuala Lumpur. [redacted] family departed 26 October.

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Buildings and Grounds. Renovations on 43 Ngo Thoi Nhiem were completed by the Embassy to the extent that the Bureau Chief was able to move from temporary quarters into the duplex.

## IV. Visits to Bureau

Mr. Richard Smyser and Miss Joan Thielbar, new officers of the Embassy political section, visited the Bureau. Miss Thielbar is concerned, among other things, with analyzing DRV propaganda materials for State.

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✓ JOHN D. CHANDLEE

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau

## Attachments

1. Classified Personnel Report
2. Foreign Personnel Report
3. Broadcast Coverage Report
4. Communications Outage Report

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Attachment (for FOS)

Saigon Bureau  
Progress Report  
for October 1964

COMMUNICATIONS OUTAGE REPORT

October 1964

Following outage report on RUAB-RUABSG circuit:

<u>Receive side:</u>	Preemption	425 hrs
	Other	<u>79</u>
	Total	504 hrs

<u>Send side:</u>	Preemption	402 hrs
	Other	<u>48</u>
	Total	450 hrs

Nov 1964

## SAIGON BUREAU BROADCAST COVERAGE SCHEDULE FOR 1 NOVEMBER 1964

Australia

English	Melbourne	is	0400-0410	daily	not ThF	good	2
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Cambodia

French	Phnom Penh	is	0515-0530	daily	daily	fair	1
"	"	is	2315-2330	"	"	fair	1
English	"	is	0530-0600	"	"	poor	1
Cambodian	"	ds	0700-0715	"	"	fair	1
"	"	ds	2300-2315	"	"	poor	1

China (Communist)

Lao	Peking	is	0000-0030	daily	daily	good	1
"	"	is	1100-1130	"	"	good	4
"	"	is	1300-1400	"	"	good	1
Cambodian	"	is	1200-1300	"	"	good	1
Thai	"	is	1130-1200	"	"	good	1
"	"	is	2330-0030	"	"	good	1
Malay	"	is	1000-1030	"	"	good	1

Clandestine Stations

## Radio Pathet Lao

Lao	0030-0100	daily	daily	fair	2
"	0415-0445	"	"	fair	1
French	0100-0115	"	"	fair	2

## Radio of the Laotian Kingdom

Lao	0500-0600	daily	daily	fair	1
Lao/French	2315-0015	"	"	fair	1

## Liberation Broadcasting Station

Vietnamese	0500-0530	daily	daily	fair	1
" (D)	0530-0600	"	"	fair	3
"	1130-1200	"	"	poor	2
"	1230-1300	"	"	poor	2
"	2330-2345	"	not Su	poor	2
Cambodian	1030-1045	"	daily	poor	2

## Voice of the Movement for Neutral and Nationalist South Vietnam

Vietnamese/Cambodian/French	0000-0100	irreg	irreg	poor	1
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Voice of the Movement for Independent Neutral and Nationalist Thailand

Thai			0100-0130	irreg	irreg	fair	2
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Voice of Khmer Serei

Cambodian/French			2300-2345	irreg	irreg	poor	2
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Laos

Lao/French	Vientiane	ds	0530-0615	daily	daily	fair	1
Lao	"	ds	2330-0100	"	"	fair	1

Malaysia

English	Kuala Lumpur	is	0000-0015	daily	not Su	poor	2
"	Kuching	ds	1100-1115	"	" ThF	poor	2
Indonesian	Kuala Lumpur	is	0800-0810	"	" ThF	good	2
Mandarin	"	is	0700-0720	"	" SS	good	2
Malay	"	ds	0600-0615	"	" ThF	fair	2
"	Jesselton	ds	1130-1145	not Su	" ThFSu	poor	2

USSR

Cambodian	Moscow	is	1030-1100	daily	daily	fair	1
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Vietnam (North)

Vietnamese (D)	Hanoi VNA	n-s Viet.	0145-0345	daily	daily	good	2
"	"	s viet.	0400-0430	"	"	fair	1
"	"	ds	0445-0515	"	"	fair	1
" (D)	" VNA	n-s Viet.	0830-0900	"	not SS	fair	2
"	"	s Viet.	1030-1100	"	" Su	fair	2
"	"	ds	1100-1130	"	daily	good	1
"	"	s Viet.	1200-1230	"	"	good	2
"	"	ds	2300-2330	"	not Su	poor	2
Rhade, Jarai	"	n-s Viet.	0345-0415	TTh	TTh	fair	2
"	"	n-s Viet.	1300-1330	MF	MF	fair	2
"	"	n-s Viet.	2330-0000	WF	WF	fair	2

Vietnam (South)

VIETNAM PRESS AGENCY twice-daily (Sunday, one) bulletins covered by scrutiny

English	Saigon	is	2330-2345	daily	daily	good	2
Vietnamese	"	ds	0400-0410	"	"	good	1
"	"	ds	0900-0905	"	"	good	1
"	"	ds	2300-2305	"	"	good	1
"	Hue	ds	2310-2330	TuSa	TuSa	fair	2